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## Senate

(Legislative day of Tuesday, January 18, 2022)

The Senate met at 10 a.m., on expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, our King eternal, guide our lawmakers to obey Your precepts, finding in sacred Scriptures a lamp for their feet and a light for their journey.

Lord, watch over our Senators as they seek to do Your will. May they hide Your words in their hearts, striving always to live with integrity. Give them the courage to stand for right and leave the consequences to You. Break the power of evil so that legislators will leave a legacy that will prompt future generations to praise Your Name. Lord, transform discord into sympathies of peace.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

#### NASA ENHANCED USE LEASING EXTENSION ACT OF 2021

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the House message to accompany H.R. 5746, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

House message to accompany H.R. 5746, a bill to amend title 51, United States Code, to extend the authority of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to enter into leases of non-excess property of the Administration.

#### Pending:

Schumer motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill.

Schumer motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill, with Schumer amendment No. 4903 (to the House amendment to the Senate amendment), to add an effective date.

Schumer amendment No. 4904 (to amendment No. 4903), to modify the effective date.

Schumer motion to refer the message of the House on the bill to the Committee on Rules and Administration, with instructions, Schumer amendment No. 4905, to add an effective date.

Schumer amendment No. 4906 (to the instructions) amendment No. 4905), to modify the effective date.

Schumer amendment No. 4907 (to amendment No. 4906), to modify the effective date.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader, Senator SCHUMER, is recognized.

H.R. 5746

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, in the fall of 1868, recently freed African-American men participated in Federal elections for the first time in American history. According to Ron Chernow's biography of Ulysses S. Grant, the impacts of expanding the vote were immediate and dramatic.

In a startling reversal for an area once dominated by slavery, the elections spawned black sheriffs, school board members, state legislators, and congressmen. That yesterday's slave laborer was today's state legislator horrified many white southerners who refused to accept this extraordinary inversion of their bygone world.

Naturally, the opponents of voting rights had an answer. Chernow continues:

[T]o circumvent the fifteenth amendment, white politicians in Georgia [and other states] devised new methods of stripping blacks of voting rights, including poll taxes, onerous registration requirements—

Let me repeat that quote.

[O]nerous registration requirements, and similar restrictions copied in other states.

Many attempts were made by this very body to stop these sinister laws, but the result was ultimately a failure.

By 1877, "the black community in the South steadily lost ground until a rigid apartheid separated the races completely, a terrible state of affairs that would not be fixed until the rise of the civil rights movement after World War II."

Today, the U.S. Senate meets in a different century, facing new and different dangers but wrestling with the same fundamental question: How will the Members of this body protect and expand the most basic right of American citizens, the wellspring of our democracy, the thing that distinguished America from all of the countries in Europe when it was established in, first, 1776 and then 1789—the right to vote—the most important wellspring of our democracy, the most important feature of our democracy?

How will the Members of this body expand and protect the most basic right—the right to vote—from forces, right now in the 21st century, conspiring to take it away?

That is why, today, the U.S. Senate will debate legislation to protect our

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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S277